

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 06671 041809Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 06671

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OEXC, TGEN, UR, US
SUBJECT: INTER-ACADEMY EXCHANGE PROGRAM (21.00)

1. DURING TOUR D'HORIZON MARCH 31, SCICOUNS NOTED TO SOVIET ACADEMY FOREIGN RELATIONS DIRECTOR KULAKOV THAT THREE RECENT US EXCHANGEES HAD RECEIVED EXIT VISAS BEFORE DEPARTURE FROM US, HOWEVER, THESE VISAS HAD BEEN HELD BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES UPON ARRIVAL. SCICOUNS NOTED THAT SUCH PRACTICE DIFFERS LITTLE FROM NOT HAVING EXIT VISAS ISSUED AT ALL AND REQUESTED SOVIET ACADEMY SUPPORT TO INSURE THAT NAS EXCHANGEES ARE ALLOWED TO RETAIN THEIR EXIT VISAS AT ALL TIMES. KULAKOV RESPONDED THAT VISA MATTERS ARE AN MFA RESPONSIBILITY AND ADVISED EMBASSY TO CONTACT MFA ON THIS MATTER. KULAKOV SAID ACADEMY WOULD TAKE NO ACTION ON THIS ISSUE; HOWEVER, IF ASKED BY MFA, ACADEMY WOULD "HAVE NO OBJECTION" TO NAS EXCHANGEES RETAINING THEIR EXIT VISAS.

2. KULAKOV ASKED SCICOUNS WHETHER THERE WERE ANY DEVELOPMENTS ON THE INTERACADEMY RENEWAL STATING THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN WAITING LONG FOR THE NAS RENEWAL PROPOSALS. SCICOUNS STATED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT INTERACADEMY
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 06671 041809Z

EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR 1978 WOULD CONTINUE ON BASIS OF PREVIOUS YEARS LEVELS IN THE ABSENCE OF A RENEWAL. KULAKOV INDICATED THIS WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING ALSO. SCICOUNS NOTED THAT EMBASSY IS NOT IN A POSITION TO SPEAK FOR NAS, A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION, ABOUT RENEWAL ISSUE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SEVERAL LETTERS FROM NAS PRESIDENT HANDLER TO SOVIET ACADEMY PRESIDENT ALEKSANDROV AND

SUGGESTED THAT SOVIET ACADEMY GIVE THEM CAREFUL ATTENTION.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL PURSUE MATTER OF CONFISCATION OF NAS EXCHANGEES' VISAS THROUGH MFA AND KEEP DEPARTMENT ADVISED. WE SUGGEST NAS BE INFORMED OF SITUATION AND INSURE THAT ISSUE IS CRANKED INTO 1978 EXCHANGE RENEWAL DISCUSSIONS SHOULD MATTER REMAIN UNRESOLVED. FOR BACKGROUND AND FURTHER APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-UP HERE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING COPIES OF LETTERS AND OTHER MESSAGES FROM NAS PRESIDENT HANDLER AND COMMITTEE OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS TO SOVIETS DURING PAST YEAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS. TOON

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Message Attributes

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